

Oldenburg  
in the Grand-Duchy of  
Oldenburg  
7 Sept. 1856.

My dear Sir,

You must excuse me for not  
having answered these six months. Not  
only the trouble of a removal, but a pro-  
tracted illness of my youngest boy and  
a farrago of unpleasant affairs which  
my new office (vacant for  $1\frac{1}{2}$  years) laid  
me under charge to wind up, and perhaps  
more than that the change of air and coun-  
try which was not for the better, have



So much pressed upon me that I have not  
been able to touch pen or paper for other things than  
what was absolutely necessary and have made all  
my friends and relations complain of my per-  
tinacious silence. Therefore think me not forgetful  
or ungrateful for the interesting supplement of Fai-  
similes which you had the kindness to send me.  
They would hardly support the conjecture (which  
else might be thought most convenient and  
is indeed the usual expedient for explaining things  
of the kind) of two hands <sup>having</sup> (cooperated in the emendations  
and render me more and more inclined to think  
all those notes transcribed from a manuscript, as  
who would think conjecturing of so extensive proportions  
and in such a writer possible without more visible  
traces of the *opera* and *præstita emendandi*? I  
think these fac-similes add greatly to bearing out  
the truth of your supposition and that you would  
gratify all by making them *publici juris* on a larger  
scale. — As to my intended edition of the quartos  
1597 and 1609 of *Romeo and Juliet* parallelized with  
each other, I am sorry that they cannot be prin-  
ted in England and cannot hope to find a publisher  
for it in Germany. So I must drop the plan and leave  
the sheets in serinibus, wishing that no better work



May undergo the same fate.

I should thank you very much if you would procure for me a copy of the reprinted folio of Sh. 1623 at the price of £3. or 3. 3. 0. which you mentioned in your last letter. Am I to transmit the money to you or to pay it here to my bookseller together with the cost of the carriage? The package would perhaps be best sent to Germany by means of David Nutt, 270, Strand (the publisher of that admirable life of Goethe by Lewes - if you should know the author, accidentally, you may remember me to him as one of his sincere admirers, though I have also some slight occasion to grapple with him, for he praises Goethe mostly by endeavouring to show that his being was not German, and censures one of his plays which he confesses not to have read <sup>(L'ador de rigo)</sup> and directed either to my own address or that of my bookseller

Mr. Ferdinand Schmidt,

Oldenburg (via Bremen)

I long for the possession of the Reprint, for as I have been long time labouring under a total depression of spirits, I should gladly set out again inquiring into Shakespeare-criticism, if not for



publishing anything yet for my own amusement.

How happy am I to hear that you intend to give a list of every emendation and to add a defensatory preface of your own. I should thank you much for immediately transmitting it to me after its being printed, for I should insert some words about it into one of our critical journals, the interest even for this questionable point of the criticism being still alive in Germany.

As to my translation (or rather that superintended and revised by me), I have inserted some of the emendations in all plays, even in those translated by Schlegel, though this elegant poet was so happy in rendering the mind and tenor of the whole that it seldom matters whether he did quite correctly justice to the detail. Many things in a translation if once hit upon with some felicity are not to be changed even for a considerable change of the original text. But as Tieck has, on the whole, not <sup>had</sup> the same felicity of expression, I have ventured to change much more in Tieck's translations, namely in Coriolanus, Antony & Cle., Meas. f. Meas., Winter's T., Timon, King Lear, but, though ~~the~~ the changes do not alone refer to the emendations made by the Corrector of your folio 1632, <sup>(which</sup> ~~they~~ are nearly all adopted in these plays), only a few passages are quite of my own translating. The sole play which I am to answer for myself (in the edition of 9 vols. which you have), is Macbeth, with exception of the beginning scene, which I took from a fragment published in the posthumous works of A. W. Schlegel, and of part of the Witches' Scenes (3.5. 4.1) which seemed to me tolerably well rendered by Tieck and Schiller.

Believe me, dearest Sir, most truly yours  
F. H. M. Mommson.